The New Thought

THERE are two kinds of thought: New Thought & Second-Hand Thought. New Thought is made up of thoughts you, yourself, think. The other kind is supplied to you by jobbers. The distinguishing feature of New Thought is its antiquity. Of necessity it is older than Second-Hand Thought. All genuine New Thought is true for the person who thinks it ❧ It only turns sour and becomes error when not used, and when the owner forces another to accept it ❧ It then becomes a Second-Hand revelation. All New Thought is revelation, and Second-Hand revelations are errors half-soled by stupidity and heeled by greed.

Very often we are inspired to think by others, but in our hearts we have the New Thought and the person, the book, the incident, merely reminds us that it is already

ours. ¶ New Thought is always simple; Second-Hand Thought is abstruse, complex, patched, peculiar, costly, and is passed out to be accepted, not understood. That no one comprehends it is often regarded as a recommendation.

For instance, "Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image," is Second-Hand Thought. The first man who said it may have known what it meant, but we don't. However, that does not keep us from piously repeating it, and having our children memorize it. We model in clay or wax, and carve if we can, and give honors to those who do, and this is well. This commandment is founded on the fallacy that graven images are gods, whatever that is ✍ The command adds nothing to our happiness, nor does it shape our conduct, nor influence our habits. Everybody knows and admits its futility, yet we are unable to eliminate it from our theological system. It is strictly Second-Hand—worse, it is junk.

Conversely, the admonition, "Be gentle

and keep your voice low," is New Thought, since all but savages know its truth, comprehend its import, and appreciate its excellence.

Dealers in Second-Hand Thought always declare that theirs is the only genuine, and that all other is spurious and dangerous.

Dealers in New Thought say, "Take this only as it appeals to you as your own—accept it all, or in part, or reject it all—and in any event, do not believe it merely because I say so."

New Thought is founded on the laws of your own nature, and its shibboleth is, "Know Thyself."

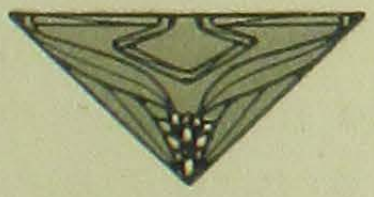
Second-Hand Thought is founded on authority, and its war-cry is, "Pay and Obey."

¶ New Thought offers you no promise of paradise or eternal bliss if you accept it; nor does it threaten you with everlasting hell, if you don't. All it offers is unending work, constant effort, new difficulties, beyond each success a new trial ☙ Its only satisfactions are that you are allowing your

life to unfold itself according to the laws of its nature. And these laws are divine, therefore you yourself are divine just as you allow the divine to possess your being. New Thought allows the currents of divinity to flow through you unobstructed.

Second-Hand Thought affords no plan of elimination; it tends to congestion, inflammation, disease, and disintegration.

New Thought holds all things lightly, gently, easily, even thought. It works for a healthy circulation, and tends to health, happiness and well-being now and hereafter. It does not believe in violence, force, coercion or resentment, because all these things react on the doer. It has faith that all men, if not interfered with by other men, will eventually evolve New Thought, and do for themselves what is best and right, beautiful and true.

Second-Hand Thought has always had first in its mind the welfare of the dealer. The rights of the consumer, beyond keeping him in subjection, were not considered. In-

deed, its chief recommendation has been that "it is a good police system."
New Thought considers only the user. To "Know Thyself" is all there is of it.
When a creator of New Thought goes into the business of retailing his product, he often forgets to live it, and soon is transformed into a dealer in Second-Hand thought ❧ That is the way all purveyors in Second-Hand revelation begin ❧ In their anxiety to succeed, they call in the police. The blessing that is compulsory is not wholly good, and any system of morals which has to be forced on us is immoral. ¶ New Thought is free thought. Its penalty is responsibility. You have to live it, or lose it. Its reward is Freedom.